

**Confidentiality, Disclosure
and Data Access:
Theory and Practical Applications
for Statistical Agencies**

January 7-9, 2002

**Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center
2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20212**

Final Program

**Sponsored by:
U.S. Census Bureau
U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
American Statistical Association (ASA) Committee
on Privacy and Confidentiality
Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology
Government Statistics Section of the ASA
Washington Statistical Society
Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics**

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Confidentiality, Disclosure and Data Access

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Data Dissemination vs. Confidentiality Protection

There is a fundamental tension at the heart of every statistical agency's mission. Each is charged with collecting high quality data to inform National policy and enable statistical research. This necessitates dissemination of both summary and microdata. Each is also charged with protecting the confidentiality of survey respondents. This often necessitates blurring the data to reduce the probability of the reidentification of individuals. The trade-off dilemma, which could well be stated as protecting confidentiality (avoiding disclosure), but maximizing access, has become more complex as both technological advances and public perceptions have altered in an information age. Fortunately, statistical disclosure limitation techniques have kept pace with the rapidly growing changes affecting data access and dissemination.

This conference highlights the progress that statistical agencies are making in addressing these challenges from both a theoretical and practical standpoint. The first day offers a Pre-Conference primer in the morning to provide a baseline for the uninitiated. Also, the Chief Statistician of the United States, Katherine Wallman, brings together leaders from some of the U.S. Federal statistical agencies to participate in two round table discussions on confidentiality policy. This is followed by a reception. The second and third days bring the authors of a new book on confidentiality and data access to Washington, DC, to discuss their work reviewing the new state-of-the-art techniques.

New Book Presents State-of-the-Art Solutions

The U.S. Census Bureau and Elsevier Science of Reed Elsevier, Inc. are pleased to announce the release of the North-Holland book: *Confidentiality, Disclosure, and Data Access: Theory and Practical Applications for Statistical Agencies*, edited by Pat Doyle, Julia Lane, Jules Theeuwes, and Laura Zayatz. This new book presents the latest developments in statistical data protection methodology and application.

**2001 Confidentiality, Disclosure
and Data Access Conference
Washington, DC, January 7-9, 2002**

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

| MONDAY, JANUARY 7 | TUESDAY, JANUARY 8 | WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9 |
|---|--|---|
| 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM Registration (Conference Room 1,2,3 Foyer) | 8:00 - 4:00 AM Registration (Conference Room 1, 2, 3 Foyer) | 8:00 - 3:00 AM Registration (Conference Room 1, 2, 3 Foyer) |
| 8:30 - 9:00 AM Coffee/Continental Breakfast | 8:00 - 9:00 AM Coffee/Continental Breakfast | 8:00 - 8:30 AM Coffee/Continental Breakfast |
| 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Pre-Conference Workshop | 9:00 - 10:30 AM Opening Panel: Setting the Stage | 8:30 - 10:30 AM New Advances with Economic and Linked Data |
| 12:00 - 1:00 PM Lunch on your own | 10:30 - 11:00 AM Break | 10:30 - 11:00 AM Break |
| 1:00 - 2:45 PM Federal Agencies Discuss Confidentiality Policy | 11:00 AM - 12:40 PM Perceptions | 11:00 AM - 12:40 PM New Advances with Demographic Data |
| 2:45 - 3:15 PM Break | 12:40 - 1:40 PM Lunch | 12:40 - 1:40 PM Lunch |
| 3:15 - 5:00 PM Federal Agencies Discuss Confidentiality Policy (continued) | 1:40 - 3:00 PM Where We Are | 1:40 - 3:00 PM Closing Panel: Reactions from Users and Advocates |
| 5:00 - 7:00 PM Reception | 3:00 - 3:20 PM Break | 3:00 PM Adjourn |
| | 3:20 - 5:00 PM Data Access Methods | |

Monday, January 7

8:30 AM -

5:00 PM REGISTRATION

8:30 -

9:00 AM COFFEE/CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

9:00 AM -

12:00 PM PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

Fundamentals on Data Confidentiality and Access Issues Among Federal Agencies

Presenters: Al Zarate (National Center for Health Statistics)
 Donna Eden (Department of Health and Human Services)
 Brian Greenberg (Social Security Administration)
 Jacob Bournazian (Energy Information Administration)
 Stephen Cohen (Bureau of Labor Statistics)

12:00 -

1:00 PM LUNCH (on your own)

1:00 -

2:45 PM FEDERAL AGENCIES DISCUSS CONFIDENTIALITY POLICY

Chair: Katherine Wallman (Office of Management and Budget)

Safe Data Issues

Panel: Mary Hutzler (Energy Information Administration)
 William Barron (U.S. Census Bureau)
 Thomas Petska (Statistics of Income, Internal Revenue Service)
 Susan Grad (Social Security Administration)
 Ronald Bosecker (National Agricultural Statistics Service)
 Lawrence Greenfeld (Bureau of Justice Statistics)

2:45 -

3:15 PM BREAK

3:15 -

5:00 PM FEDERAL AGENCIES DISCUSS CONFIDENTIALITY POLICY

Chair: Katherine Wallman (Office of Management and Budget)

Safe Setting Issues

Panel: Marilyn M. Seastrom (National Center for Education Statistics)
 Edward Sondik (National Center for Health Statistics)
 John Thompson (U.S. Census Bureau)
 Lynda Carlson (Science Resources Statistics, National Science Foundation)
 Lois Orr (Bureau of Labor Statistics)

5:00 -

7:00 PM RECEPTION

Tuesday, January 8

8:00 AM -4:00 PM REGISTRATION

8:00 -9:00 AM COFFEE/CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

9:00 -10:30 AM OPENING PANEL: SETTING THE STAGE

Chair: Julia Lane (U.S. Census Bureau)
Nancy Gordon (U.S. Census Bureau)
Miron Straf (The National Academy of Sciences)
Ed Spar (Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics)

10:30 -11:00 AM BREAK

11:00 AM -12:40 PM PERCEPTIONS

Chair: Pat Doyle (U.S. Census Bureau)

Public Perceptions of Confidentiality and Attitudes Toward Data Sharing by Federal Agencies
Presenter: Eleanor Singer (University of Michigan)

The Privacy Context of Survey Response: An Ethnographic Account
Presenter: Eleanor Gerber (U.S. Census Bureau)

Business Perceptions of Confidentiality
Presenter: Nicholas Greenia (Internal Revenue Service)
J. Bradford Jensen (U.S. Census Bureau)
Julia Lane (U.S. Census Bureau)

Discussant: Jules Theeuwes (University of Amsterdam)

12:40 -1:40 PM LUNCH

1:40 -3:00 PM WHERE WE ARE

Chair: Pat Doyle (U.S. Census Bureau)

Disclosure Limitation Methods in Use: Results of a Survey
Presenter: Jules Theeuwes (University of Amsterdam)
Flóra Felső (University of Amsterdam)
Gert Wagner (German Institute for Economic Research)

Information Explosion
Presenter: Latanya Sweeney (Carnegie Mellon University)

Discussant: Norman M. Bradburn (National Science Foundation)

3:00-3:20 PM BREAK

3:20 -5:00 PM DATA ACCESS METHODS

Chair: Julia Lane (U.S. Census Bureau)

Licensing
Presenter: Marilyn M. Seastrom (National Center for Education Statistics)

Issues in the Establishment and Management of Secure Research Sites
Presenter: Timothy Dunne (University of Oklahoma)

The Potential and Perils of Remote Access
Presenter: Michael Blakemore (University of Durham)

Discussant: Steve Cohen (Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Wednesday, January 9

8:00 AM -3:00 PM REGISTRATION

8:00 -8:30 AM COFFEE/CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

8:30 -10:30 AM NEW ADVANCES WITH ECONOMIC AND LINKED DATA

Chair: Laura Zayatz (U.S. Census Bureau)

Disclosure Limitation Methods and Information Loss for Tabular Data
Presenter: Stephen F. Roehrig (Carnegie Mellon University)
George T. Duncan (Carnegie Mellon University)
Stephen E. Fienberg (Carnegie Mellon University)
Ramayya Krishnan (Carnegie Mellon University)
Rema Padman (Carnegie Mellon University)

Nonperturbative Disclosure Control Methods for Tabular Data
Presenter: Sarah Giessing (Federal Statistics Office of Germany)

Disclosure Limitation in Longitudinal Linked Data
Presenter: John M. Abowd (Cornell University)
Simon D. Woodcock (Cornell University)

Discussant: Nancy Kirkendall (Energy Information Administration)

10:30 -11:00 AM BREAK

11:00 AM -12:40 PM NEW ADVANCES WITH DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Chair: Laura Zayatz (U.S. Census Bureau)

Disclosure Risk Assessment
Presenter: Kingsley Purdam (University of Manchester)
Mark Elliot (University of Minnesota)

Disclosure Control Methods and Information Loss for Microdata
Presenter: Josep Domingo-Ferrer (Universitat Rovira i Virgili)
Vincenç Torra (Artificial Intelligence Research Institute)

A Quantitative Comparison of Disclosure Control Methods for Microdata
Presenter: Vincenç Torra (Artificial Intelligence Research Institute)
Josep Domingo-Ferrer (Universitat Rovira i Virgili)
Discussant: Jean-Louis Tambay (Statistics Canada)

12:40 -1:40 PM LUNCH

1:40-3:00 PM CLOSING PANEL: REACTIONS FROM USERS AND ADVOCATES

Chair: Jules Theeuwes (University of Amsterdam)

Panel: Stephen Fienberg (Carnegie Mellon University)
Stephen Tordella (Decision Demographics)
Robert Gellman (Privacy and Information Policy Consultant)

3:00 PM ADJOURN
